

*This brochure is designed to inform you whether a fence is in compliance with the Indianapolis/Marion County Revised Code.*

## DID YOU KNOW?

1. **Revised Code.** You can view the entire Indianapolis/ Marion County Revised Code online at [www.indy.gov](http://www.indy.gov).
2. **Violations.** Violations can result in citations, a court appearance, and fines up to \$2,500.
3. **Development Area One:** Please refer to Sec. 731-102 of the Revised Code for more information on fence height and structural barrier regulations in this area.



Revised: July 2013

## Department of Code Enforcement

*Driving public safety and improving quality of life through the efficient and effective administration of:*

- *LICENSES*
- *PERMITS*
- *INSPECTIONS*

*For a complete list of services and resources, visit [www.indy.gov/dce](http://www.indy.gov/dce) or contact us via:*

### LOBBY HOURS:

<i>Monday</i>	<i>8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.</i>
<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.</i>
<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Noon - 5:00 p.m.</i>
<i>Thursday</i>	<i>8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.</i>
<i>Friday</i>	<i>9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.</i>

**There are many ways to report a violation or neighborhood concern:**

P: (317) 327-4MAC (4622)  
W: [Indy.gov/RequestIndy](http://Indy.gov/RequestIndy)  
App: RequestIndy (iPhone & Android)

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# FENCE REGULATIONS



Department of Code Enforcement  
**Indianapolis**  
*Gregory A. Ballard, Mayor*

1200 Madison Ave., Suite 100 Indianapolis, IN 46225  
P: (317) 327-8700 - F: (317) 327-8696 - W: [Indy.gov/dce](http://Indy.gov/dce)

## FENCES

### Sec. 731-219 Accessory Uses.

Structural barriers (including, by way of example, a chain link or solid fence, architectural screen, lattice-work or masonry wall), dense landscape plantings (including, by way of example, a continuous hedge of deciduous or evergreen shrubs), shrubs and trees shall be permitted in front, side and rear yards provided that the height of any structural barrier shall not exceed six feet.

1. Any structural barrier in the required front yard shall not exceed 42 inches in height.
2. The measurement of fence height shall be taken from the ground level to the top of the fence, exclusive of fence posts.
3. Fence posts may exceed the maximum height by one foot.
4. Barbed wire, razor wire and similar type wires shall not be permitted in any residential district except in the D-A District, where it may be used only in conjunction with an agricultural enterprise.
5. No structural barrier shall be electrified in any manner, except in the D-A District, where it may be used only in conjunction with an agricultural enterprise.

### Sec. 731-221. Special Regulations.

#### Street requirements — clear sight triangular area.

All landscape plantings, structural barriers, shrubs, trees, structures or other objects, shall permit completely unobstructed vision within a clear sight triangular area. For example a fence or landscape plantings shall not exceed 30 inches in height in this area.

1. On a corner lot, the clear sight triangular area is formed by the street right-of-way lines, the pavement edge of the drives or driveways and the line connecting points 25 feet from the intersection.
2. On a lot which has a driveway, abuts an alley or which is next to a lot which has a driveway, the two clear sight triangular areas are formed by the street right-of-way line, and the connecting points 10 feet from the intersection of the street right-of-way and driveway.

Properties on corner lots have two front yards.

Any property that abuts a public street right-of-way is considered to be a front yard.

If you have questions or concerns about your corner lot property, please call the Department of Code Enforcement at 327-8700 for clarification.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**Q:** My neighborhood covenants do not allow privacy panel fences. My neighbor recently constructed a wooden privacy fence. Can the City enforce this violation?

**A:** No. The City does not enforce neighborhood covenants. You may want to check with your homeowner's association or seek legal counsel.

**Q:** My neighbor constructed a fence that encroaches onto my property by approximately two feet. Can you send an inspector to investigate?

**A:** This would be a civil matter between two neighbors and not a zoning violation.

**Q:** I live in a historical district. Do I need prior approval to build my fence?

**A:** Yes. You will need to apply for a Certificate of Appropriateness from the Indianapolis Historical Preservation Commission (IHPC) at (317) 327-4406.

**Q:** Do I need a permit to construct a privacy fence around my back yard?

**A:** No. A permit is not needed for the construction of a fence.

**Q:** My neighbor's fence is falling down over into my yard. Can you please send a zoning inspector out to investigate?

**A:** This is not a zoning violation. This matter would be referred to Health and Hospital Corporation, as they enforce the maintenance of fences.

